

# Old Fort Pond Community Fishery Phase II

Project ID: 4421

Status: Current

Fiscal Year: 2019

Submitted By: N/A

Total Acres: 12

Project Manager: Natalie Boren

PM Agency: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

PM Office: Northeastern Region

Lead: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

WRI Region: Northeastern

## Description:

Land donation for Community fishing ponds and wetland mitigation area. Project phase I is currently in progress and included many components including the initial construction of the excavated ponds, parking area, cattle exclusion fence and interior fencing. Phase II includes the final installation of facilities, water delivery structures, security features, final landscaping for trails, ponds, picnic area and parking area.

## Location:

Ponds and Wetland mitigation area are located at 2404 North 3250 West near the mouth of Dry Fork Canyon, near Vernal, Utah

## PROJECT NEED

### Need For Project:

Phase I of this project was funded in FY 2018 and the need to finalize this project and open it up to the public is high. Phase II includes all the finish work to complete this project with an anticipated opening date of Spring 2019. As reported in the UDWR statewide angler survey report for 2016, the need for a community fishing pond in the Vernal area is highly desired. Utah is home to around 48 community fishing pond with zero in the Uintah Basin.

### Objectives:

- 1) Complete all landscaping around the pond site including trails, fishing access points and the parking area and continue to work on completing wetland mitigation area.
- 2) Install facilities on the property to maintain a high level of satisfaction with users and neighbors. This includes the installation of bathroom structure, security cameras, benches, picnic tables, foot bridges, several educational kiosks and a possible fishing pier.
- 3) Finalize and install safety components to help with traffic speeds and increased traffic in the area. This includes 2 solar powered speed detection signs on both ends of the county road.
- 4) Complete plantings to increase species diversity within the wetland mitigation complex and replace plants that did not survive the previous year. This is a 5 year USACOE obligation and critical to meet the success criteria for this site. Also associated with this objective is yearly completion of the USACOE report for this wetland mitigation area.
- 5) Finalize to the best of our ability the water delivery and operation structures needed to maintain and pass through our DWR owned water shares. This includes items such as winter water to the ponds via culinary system and a finalized water delivery from the Ashley Upper canal the remainder of the water year. In order to finalize these aspects we need to see how the water/hydrology of the area performs for the next 1-3 years. Ground water and flow-through spring water may cover our evaporation losses, but we have to evaluate and see how the entire system functions before finalized decisions can be made.
- 6) Overall goal is to be able to have our community fishing these ponds and enjoying the new WMA by June of 2019

### Threats / Risks:

- 1) USACOE mitigation requirements could be jeopardized if funding packages are not obtained
- 2) A nearly completed set of community fishing ponds might be left unfinished and due to residents concerns and safety issues may not be able to open to the public until complete.
- 3) UDWR public image if we cannot open the facility in a timely fashion.

### Relation To Management Plan:

- 1) This project falls inline with the states strategic plan to provide increase angling opportunity and increase fishing license sells into the future.

- 2) Old Fort Ponds WMA will have its own management plan which is currently in draft form.
- 3) Old Fort ponds is included in the watershed management plan currently underway with Uintah Water Conservancy district as the lead.
- 4) Old Fort ponds in included in the Uintah County trails system master plan with a possible trail connection in the future.

#### **Fire / Fuels:**

This project will increase the wetness of the ground in the 14.4 acre WMA but transfer of water shares to the property. With the possibility of piping on the upper canal systems which deliver irrigation water to Vernal, the area has a high probability of becoming dry. This wetland mitigation area will be a positive feature to the area in the future and will provide protection to the area in multiple ways include a lesser risk of fire due to drought.

#### **Water Quality/Quantity:**

This project is aimed to increase water quantity as we will be transferring 20 DWR owned water shares to this site to increase water quality for the fishing ponds but also increase/sustain water quantity to the wetland mitigation site. The wetland mitigation site equals 10 acres of wet meadow in which the DWR will be working to enhance, water saturation is a key component of this pond project.

#### **Compliance:**

All permits and clearances are secure at this time for construction and completion of phase II

If all goes as planned only one final permit will need completion (small dam application)

#### **Methods:**

- 1) FY 2018 Utilize UDWR heavy equipment crew to complete major excavation
- 2) FY 2019 Utilize UDWR HE crew to finalize all remaining aspects of the excavation, landscaping and parking lot area.
- 3) FY 2019 utilize UDWR techs and biologist to complete required mitigation site work including: plantings, interior fencing, and signage installation.
- 4) FY19-FY24 continue enhancement of wetland mitigation area.

#### **Monitoring:**

- 1) Long term monitoring of this site includes: wetland saturation, wetland vegetation plantings, hydrology monitoring as required by the USACOE.
- 2) UDWR will conduct fisheries surveys and angler use surveys into the future which will provide useful information for fisheries managers.

#### **Partners:**

Uintah County, Uintah Water Conservancy District, Meier Management Group (Land donation),

#### **Future Management:**

Old Fort Ponds WMA will have its own management plan and operate under this plan. Drafts of this WMA management plan are in the works with next steps being: county and other public input, the RDCC process and the RAC process.

The wetland mitigation area will be enhanced and managed under the USACOE permit and requires 5 years to evaluate success.

The facilities and ponds themselves will be managed under the UDWR northeastern regional office for the next five years. During that time negotiations with the county will take place to see if the Uintah Recreation District will take over facilities care and maintenance. Until that time UDWR will seek Habitat Council funds for Aquatic facilities operations and maintenance for the northeastern region as we did in FY18.

#### **Domestic Livestock Benefit:**

N/A to this project for at least 5 years. There is a clause in the deed restrictions that may allow grazing on the bottom portion of this site for vegetation control if needed. This would only be a short window of grazing and would be limited to the bottom 10 acres of the property.

BUDGET		WRI/DWR	Other	Budget Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
		\$145,470.00	\$40,000.00	\$185,470.00	\$32,900.00	\$218,370.00
Item	Description	WRI	Other	In-Kind	Year	
Contractual Services	Solar power front entry gate openers (2) with battery bank to control main gate and close at selected time each night + open each morning. Hire contractor to install each opener and set up on timer.	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Personal Services (permanent employee)	UDWR HE crew to finish landscaping items and other HE needs to complete the project or ability to hire professional landscape company to complete project.	\$25,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Materials and Supplies	Wetland plantings year 2 mitigation site + In-kind for UDWR times spent planting + planting supplies (barriers, tree protection, stakes)	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	2019	
Seed (GBRC)	Year 2 re-seeding and enhancement for wetland mitigation area and disturbed area around construction site + In-kind for UDWR time or community volunteers to place seeds in desired locations.	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	2019	
Contractual Services	Water delivery pipe permitting, design and installation from Ashley Upper Canal to the ponds and/or a connection to the culinary water line for winter water delivery to the pond site. + Biologist time spent coordinating this end of the project.	\$0.00	\$40,000.0	\$1,200.00	2019	
Contractual Services	Construction management + any final engineering costs (DFCM + Sunrise Engineering) To finalize all remaining items at the site. If not needed funding will go to Contractor to continue writing annual USACOE report for UDWR compliance (\$3500)	\$8,720.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Materials and Supplies	Materials and construction of foot bridges to cross outlet areas and one pond connected stream crossing along the pathways. (6x6 treated post or metal, decking materials, screws and possible railing materials) in-kind=eagle scout time	\$4,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	2019	
Equipment Purchase	Remote video surveillance system (solar power set up) with 8MP or greater camera and live web feed. Batteries to store power will also be needed.	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Equipment Purchase	1 solar powered radar speed signs for the county road. Item will be set at 25MPH to help slow additional traffic expected to enter the area because of the fishing ponds. \$2900 each + installation	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Contractual Services	Construct and installation of CXT vaulted bathroom and connection of sewer and water. (includes concrete pad, sewer and water hookup fees)	\$39,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019	
Materials and Supplies	Supplies to build 3 educational kiosks around the pond and wetland mitigation site (WMA and pond rules, wetland interpretative kiosk, species identification plaques, interpretative kiosk for Fort Thornberg) (in-kind bio and Arch work)	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	2019	

Item	Description	WRI	Other	In-Kind	Year
Contractual Services	Wetland mitigation report writing conducted by environmental specialist with Sunrise Engineering. Includes all photo point monitoring and finalized yearly report turned into the USACOE for our compliance (in-kind = biologist review and plantings)	\$3,250.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	2019
Materials and Supplies	Materials and supplies to finalize landscaping and wetland mitigation area. Boulders, hydroseed, benches, picnic tables, trashcans, posts and signs for WMA rules (in-kind=biologist time spent designing, installing + community commitment to this project)	\$20,000.0	\$0.00	\$6,200.00	2019
Personal Services (seasonal employee)	Seasonal time to cost code for already existing employees to come work on select aspects of the pond work (planting, construct bridges or kiosks, run equipment to finish up landscaping etc)	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019
Materials and Supplies	Artificial fish habitat structures for both ponds + in-kind for eagle scout/community volunteers time constructing these. (honey hole trees and logs 50 structure X \$110)	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	2019
Materials and Supplies	Cobble Rock donated to project by UWCD (40 + dump truck loads @ cost of \$450 per load)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.0	2019
Equipment Purchase	10X12 w 20'walkway Floating dock system for small kids pond (Pond King) In-kind for assembly and installation of dock by scouts/community groups	\$12,500.0	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	2019

FUNDING	WRI/DWR	Other	Funding Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$119,586.54	\$40,000.00	\$159,586.54	\$32,900.00	\$192,486.54

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
Habitat Council Account	HCRF	New items to complete project	\$119,586.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2019

Allocation	Percent of Total
Big Game	10%
Upland Game	10%
Waterfowl	0%
Sport Fish	80%
Nongame Fish	0%
Nongame Wildlife	0%

DWR	UDWR biologist, tech, intern in-kind work on this project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,400.0	2019
Uintah Water Conservancy District	Cobble rock donation for pond work 50-75 loads	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.0	2019
Volunteers	Eagle Scout project for building fish habitat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	2019
Uintah Water Conservancy District	Mitigation funding from Uintah Water Conservancy District for water delivery pipeline/structures for pond/wetland area	\$0.00	\$40,000.0	\$0.00	2019

EXPENSE	WRI/DWR	Other	Expense Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
Habitat Council Account	HCRF	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Allocation			Percent of Total			
		Big Game	10%			
		Upland Game	10%			
		Waterfowl	0%			
		Sport Fish	80%			
		Nongame Fish	0%			
		Nongame Wildlife	0%			
DWR		N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Uintah Water Conservancy District		N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Volunteers		N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Uintah Water Conservancy District		N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

SPECIES						
Species	"N" Rank		HIG/F Rank			
Ring-necked Pheasant			3			
Threat			Impact			
Housing and Urban Areas			High			
Bluegill			3			
Threat			Impact			
No Threat			NA			
Sandhill Crane			4			
Threat			Impact			
Not Listed			NA			
Largemouth Bass			3			
Threat			Impact			
No Threat			NA			
Waterfowl			N/A			
Threat			Impact			
Not Listed			NA			
Brook Trout			4			
Threat			Impact			
No Threat			NA			
Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	N2		1			
Threat			Impact			
Not Listed			NA			
Rainbow Trout			5			
Threat			Impact			

Species	"N" Rank	HIG/F Rank
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA
Tiger Trout		2
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA

## HABITATS

Habitat		
Emergent		
Threat		Impact
Habitat Shifting and Alteration		Unknown
Housing and Urban Areas		Low
Invasive Plant Species – Non-native		Medium
Water Allocation Policies		High
Open Water		
Threat		Impact
Agricultural / Municipal / Industrial Water Usage		Very High
Water Allocation Policies		Very High

## PROJECT COMMENTS

## COMPLETION

Start Date:

End Date:

FY Implemented:

2019

FY Completed:

Final Methods:

N/A

Project Narrative:

N/A

Future Management:

N/A

## Map Features

ID	Feature Category	Action	Treatment/Type
650	Fence	Construction	Pole top

ID	Feature Category	Action	Treatment/Type
6338	Easement/Acquisition	Easement/Acquisition	Conservation easement
6339	Aquatic/Riparian Treatment	Lake/Wetland/Pond Improvements	Pond Construction
6340	Aquatic/Riparian Treatment	Grazing management/changes	Grazing management/Changes
6340	Aquatic/Riparian Treatment	Vegetation Improvements	Manual removal / hand crew
6340	Aquatic/Riparian Treatment	Vegetation Improvements	Pole planting/cuttings